

PRICE ONE CENT.

# EXTRA AWFUL DEATH!

It Comes Through Fire to  
Secretary Tracy's Wife and  
Unmarried Daughter.

One Suffocated, the Other Fatally  
Hurt Attempting to Escape.

A Maid Servant Shares Their Ter-  
rible Fate.

Gen. Tracy Carried Unconscious  
from His Burning Home.

A Frightful Catastrophe of This  
Morning at Washington.

(SPECIAL TO THE EVENING WORLD)  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—A most shocking  
catastrophe has occurred.  
Shortly after 7 o'clock this morning a  
fire broke out in the house of Secretary  
Tracy, of the Navy Department.  
In the conflagration that followed, Mrs.  
Tracy, the Secretary's wife, lost her life



MRS. TRACY.

by jumping from a window, and Miss  
Mary Tracy, her daughter, was suffocated.  
A French maid was burned to death.  
Secretary Tracy was taken out un-  
conscious and lies in a critical condition.  
The fire was discovered by a man who  
chanced to pass the house and saw smoke  
issuing from the windows.  
He rang the bell, gave the alarm and  
tried to calm the servants, who ran wildly  
about in their efforts to escape.  
Every one in the house was in bed  
when the alarm was given.

JUMPING FROM WINDOWS.  
Mrs. Wilmerding, the Secretary's mar-  
ried daughter, and her child, Alice,  
forced their way through the blinding  
smoke and jumped from the second-story  
window, front.

Ladders were raised for them, but in  
their excitement they failed to see them.  
Mrs. Wilmerding broke her left wrist  
and was severely bruised.  
Her daughter was badly injured about  
the lower limbs, but broke no bones.  
They both suffered severely from the  
shock. They were taken at once to the  
residence of Dr. Baxter, nearby, and res-  
toration attempted.

MRS. TRACY FATALLY HURT.  
Mrs. Tracy also dropped from a second  
story window, soon after the alarm was  
given, but was not so fortunate as her  
daughter and grandchild.  
She received internal injuries which  
proved fatal an hour later.  
She fell upon a concrete courtyard and  
was unconscious when first picked up,  
though she regained her senses before  
her death.

HARD WORK AND CONFUSION.  
By the time the firemen reached the  
house, though they responded speedily  
to the alarm, the lower part was all abaze  
and the main staircase was burned, thus

means of escape from the sleeping apart-  
ments being thus taken away.

It was known that members of the fam-  
ily were inside, and the firemen went to  
work desperately, using every means to  
subdue the fire and to rescue the im-  
periled ones.

TAKING OUT THE DEAD AND INJURED.  
Ingress to the burning house was ob-  
tained at the rear, by means of ladders  
placed at the windows.

One of the first bodies found was that  
of Miss Tracy, who was found by Chief  
Engineer Parris senseless in a hallway.  
She had been suffocated by smoke and  
heat.

She was taken out tenderly through a  
neighbor's house and down a ladder, and  
the best medical help was instantly at her  
side, but without avail.

The features were unrecognizable, but  
certain peculiarities of apparel led to the  
identification of the body.

Another body badly burned was that  
of a servant, a French maid named Jose-  
phine.

THE SECRETARY'S ESCAPE.  
Secretary Tracy himself had a most  
wondrous escape, and is now lying in a  
precarious condition at the residence of  
Mr. J. C. Bancroft Davis, in H street.

He was overcome in his sleep by the  
smoke which filled the house, and was  
rendered completely helpless.

He was discovered in this condition,  
and with considerable difficulty was re-  
moved to a place near one of the win-  
dows.

Cries for a ladder were quickly  
answered and many willing hands were  
raised to assist him to the ground.

He was removed to a neighbor's house,  
and was soon surrounded by physicians,  
who found him to be suffering from  
asphyxia.

The doctors applied artificial means to  
induce respiration and succeeded, after an  
hour's work, in restoring him to  
semi-consciousness.

It was then deemed safe to take him to  
his present resting-place.

WILD STORIES ABROAD.  
By this time the crowd about the burn-  
ing house had grown to enormous prop-  
ortions and the wildest stories had  
spread all over the city.

Secretary Tracy was time and again re-  
ported dead, and time and again the re-  
port was contradicted as soon as started.

THE PRESIDENT COMES.  
President Harrison and Vice-President  
Morton, hearing early of the catastrophe,  
were with Secretary Tracy soon after the  
latter regained partial consciousness.

The sufferer asked piteously for news  
of his family, but it was not deemed safe  
to tell him the full extent of his cal-  
amity, and he was persuaded into a quiet  
sleep.

ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.  
There is as yet nothing certainly known  
as to the origin of the fire.

The theory is that it started from the  
furnace, in Secretary Tracy's house, or  
in Judge Cox's, adjoining, the latter resi-  
dence being speedily included in the  
blaze.

Some of them found useful work to do,  
while others stood and gazed soberly at  
the work of an agile force whose "pre-  
vious question" knew no dispute and  
who stood upon no special order or mode  
of progression.

Senator Chandler stationed himself at  
the door of the Rheems residence, where  
Mrs. Tracy was taken after her removal  
from the house.

THE FIRE RAN A GREAT STAY.  
No company never made better time  
in all its history than it did in reaching  
the burning house, but the fire had a big  
start.

It is supposed to have been burning  
quietly for a long time and to have got  
into all the floors and partitions before it  
burst out.

Mrs. and Miss Wilmerding were seen to  
come to the window in front, and, in

spite of the warnings not to jump, they  
made their terrible leap to the ground.

ONE SERVANT'S RESCUE.  
Truck B arrived very soon after the  
alarm, although to the watching spec-  
tators minutes seemed hours.

Assistant Chief Louis P. Lowe at once  
went to the rear, where a woman, pre-  
sumably one of the servants, was waving  
a blanket to keep the flames and smoke  
away from her.

She was up under the Mansard roof,  
and behaved with a good deal of coolness.  
She was ordered not to jump, and she  
did not, being rescued later with a lad-  
der.

By this time Chief Parris arrived, and,  
learning that there were people still in the  
house, he left the fire extinguishing  
arrangements to his subordinates and  
dashed into the burning house.

RESCUING THE SECRETARY.  
The Chief tells his story of the scene in  
the house thus:  
"I felt my way through the smoke to  
the second floor, and found a man in bed  
in a room. I tried to pick him up, but  
he was almost too heavy.  
"I managed to drag him into a back  
room, where there was more air, and then  
broke the window out and called to Lowe,  
who was in the alley, to run up a ladder.  
Then they took the man out, and it  
proved to be the Secretary.

MISS TRACY PRIORITALLY BURNED.  
"Then I went back into the smoke  
and fire again and found a young lady—  
Miss Mary Tracy, they told me it was—  
certain peculiarities of apparel led to the  
identification of the body.

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the house and had furnished it through-  
out in the richest manner.

The loss will approximate \$50,000,  
partly insured.

WANTED MR. TRACY AT THE WHITE HOUSE.  
The President asked that Secretary  
Tracy be taken to the White House, but  
it was thought best not to move him so  
far, and he was taken around the corner  
to the residence of Judge Bancroft Davis.  
At last accounts he was resting com-  
fortably.

GEN. TRACY HEARS OF HIS LOSS.  
LATER.—Gen. Tracy now knows of his  
terrible loss.

President Harrison gave the sad intelli-  
gence to him as soon as the Secretary  
recovered from the stupor into which he  
fell after his removal to the Davis resi-  
dence.

The blow was a fearful one and the suf-  
ferer almost succumbed.  
He rallied slightly, however, after a few  
moments.

The President has given up his intended  
trip to New York to attend the Judiciary  
Centennial.

At 2.30 Gen. Tracy was again sleeping  
under the influence of opiates.

The bodies of Mrs. and Miss Tracy will  
be taken to the White House this after-  
noon.

The Dead Wife and Daughter.  
Mrs. Tracy was the sister of Gen. Isaac  
S. Catlin, the distinguished Brooklyn  
lawyer, and her maiden name was De-  
linda E. Catlin.

She was a woman of pleasing appear-  
ance, of fair complexion, with blue eyes  
and light hair.

She was an earnest and willing work-  
er in the Episcopal Church, ready at all  
times to devote herself to the church in-  
terests, but at the same time she was  
fond of society and one of the most ac-  
ceptable of women, either as guest or host.

She was cultured and extremely fond of  
books.

Gen. Tracy himself spoke of her fondly  
and proudly as "an excellent woman and  
wife, and a good mother."

Mrs. Tracy's family included, besides  
her husband and herself, three children  
and a grandchild, the last-mentioned  
being Alice Tracy Wilmerding, the  
twelve-year-old daughter of the Secre-  
tary's eldest daughter, Mrs. Emma L.  
Wilmerding.

The other children were Frank B.  
Tracy, who remained in Brooklyn when  
the family moved to Washington, and  
Miss Mary Farrington Tracy, the daughter  
who shared the mother's terrible fate.

At the time Gen. Tracy went to Wash-  
ington, Miss Mary was sick and Mrs.  
Tracy remained for a time in Brooklyn,  
giving her daughter the benefit of her  
tender motherly care.

Miss Mary was like her mother in ap-  
pearance and had the same pleasant and  
cheerful ways.

She had a host of friends in Brooklyn,  
who were full of regret at her departure  
for the capital and who will feel deeply  
her distressing fate.

Miss Mary was a gifted artist, and spent  
three years at Paris under the tuition of  
the great French painter, Charles Cham-  
plain.

Mrs. Tracy had been something of an  
invalid for the last few years, and, though  
she had appeared in society at times, the  
burden of her social duties fell principally  
upon Mrs. Wilmerding, whose  
beauty, tact and accomplishments com-  
pletely fitted her for the positions she was  
thus called upon to fill.

Mrs. Tracy's own people, the Catlins,  
descended in a direct line from Capt.  
Daniel Broadhead, who served in 1664  
with Gov. Nichols, under the Duke of  
York, against the Dutch in America, and  
afterwards settled in Ulster County.

The Tracys are of New England extrac-  
tion, and boast ancestors of Revolutionary  
fame and valor.

Mrs. Wilmerding's husband, who died  
sixteen months after the marriage, was  
of Knickerbocker descent.

The Bereaved Secretary.  
Gen. Benjamin F. Tracy is about fifty-  
nine years old. He was born in Owego,  
N. Y., and secured his education in the  
common school of his native town. After  
leaving the Owego Academy he entered  
the law office of Nathaniel W. Davis,  
where he remained engaged in the study  
of law until 1851, when he was admitted  
to the bar and soon made a mark in his  
profession.

In 1853 he became the Republican can-  
didate for District-Attorney of Tioga  
County, and though it was a Democratic  
stronghold he was elected. Two years  
later he was again elected to the same  
office.

He was elected to the Assembly in 1861,  
and a year later he recruited the One  
Hundred and Ninth and One Hundred  
and Thirty-seventh regiments and re-  
ceived his commission as Colonel of the  
former regiment from Gov. Morgan.

In the battle of the Wilderness, May 6,  
Col. Tracy led in the thick of the fight.  
He was carried from the field exhausted,  
but refused to go to a hospital, but led  
his command through the three days'  
fight at Spotsylvania, when, being com-  
pletely broken down, he was forced to  
turn over his command to his junior  
officer. He subsequently was tendered  
and accepted the command of the One  
Hundred and Twenty-seventh United  
States colored troops.

After the war Gen. Tracy settled in  
New York and resumed his practice of  
the law as one of the firm of Benedict,  
Tracy & Benedict.

He was one of the counsel for the defense in the celebrated  
Becher trial. In 1888 Gen. Tracy was

made United States District-Attorney for  
the Eastern District of New York, which  
position he held until 1873, when he was  
forced to resign because of the growth of  
his private practice.

Gen. Tracy is a well-known breeder of  
troopers, and owned the Marshall stud,  
at Apalachin, Tioga County, N. Y., where  
he had as stallions Mambrino Dudley, by  
Woodford, Mambrino record 2:19 1/4;  
Cheltenham, by Osmore, record 2:28,  
and Bravado, by Kentucky Wilkes.

Gen. Tracy also owned Kentucky  
Wilkes, by George Wilkes, record 2:21 1/4.

The Burned House.  
The house which was the scene of this  
morning's terrible calamity was that at  
1634 I street, formerly occupied by Don  
M. Dickinson, Postmaster-General under  
President Cleveland.

It was south of Farragut Square, upon  
which it had an attractive outlook.

Secretary Tracy had it carefully re-  
arranged and refitted, and it became very  
soon one of the most popular houses in  
the Capital circle.

It was two stories in height, with a base-  
ment and a mansard roof.

A bay window ran from the basement to  
the mansard.

On the south side a flight of steps ran  
up to the hall through which entrance  
was gained to the front drawing-room.

The back drawing-room had a pleasant  
bay-window and great fireplace.

The finely proportioned dining room  
was in the rear of the drawing-room.

All the wood work of the interior was  
in black walnut.

The sleeping chambers were above and  
the bedroom capacity had been somewhat  
increased by an extension built under  
Gen. Tracy's orders.

Grief of Gen. and Mrs. Catlin.  
There was a very affecting scene in the  
office of Gen. Tracy's law partner, Gen.  
Isaac J. Catlin, at 26 Court street, when  
the news was broken to the latter this  
morning.

Soon after the catastrophe occurred a  
despatch was sent to the General saying  
that the Tracy residence had been burned  
and that Mrs. Wilmerding's child had  
perished in the flames and that the Gen-  
eral had been taken out unconscious.

Mrs. Wilmerding, who is the General's  
eldest daughter, and Mrs. Tracy had been  
reconciled, according to the despatch.

"I can't believe it," moaned Gen. Cat-  
lin, covering his face with his hands as if  
bewildered at the suddenness of the  
spelling news. "I won't believe it. I  
won't believe it!" he kept repeating.

Next came a despatch saying that Gen.  
Tracy and Miss Tracy were both dead,  
and that two other unknown bodies had  
been taken out of the ruins.

"Oh, this is awful!" moaned Gen. Cat-  
lin. He sent a messenger for his wife.  
When she arrived he was sobbing like a  
child. Three or four men stood about  
trying to comfort him.

"Why, papa?" she cried, calling him  
by the pet name used in the family  
circle. "What can be the trouble?"

She went up to him, caressed his brow  
and wiped away the tears that were  
streaming down the strong man's rugged  
cheeks.

"Dear up," he said to his wife, "it is  
awful news."

"What is it? Tell me quick," she re-  
plied.

"Mrs. Tracy and her daughter have  
been burned to death," replied the  
General.

"Oh," cried Mrs. Catlin, pressing her  
hand over her heart as though stricken  
with pain.

Just then Major Convin came and said  
that the sad report was confirmed by later  
despatches, and the grief of Mr. and Mrs.  
Catlin was pitiful to witness.

Every one withdrew softly and let the  
couple alone.

Mrs. Catlin is Mrs. Secretary Tracy's  
sister. Gen. Catlin and Secretary Tracy  
having married sisters.

Gen. Catlin will start for Washington  
at once.

Frank Tracy, the Secretary's son, is in  
Brooklyn, but just where he didn't  
know.

Mrs. Tracy and her daughters were  
members of St. Anne's Protestant Epis-  
copal Church in Clinton street.

Gen. Tracy and his wife removed from  
Owego to Brooklyn in 1863, and until last  
Fall lived at 148 Montague street. They  
gave up that house shortly after the Gen-  
eral's appointment as Secretary of the  
Navy, and removed to Washington.

PLEADED TO OPEN THE BANK.  
Mr. Jordan seemed very much dis-  
concerted at this, and insisted that he should  
be allowed to open the bank at once.  
Examiner Trevelyan, however, could not  
be moved by entreaties, and after a short  
conference, which was conducted in  
whispers, Mr. Jordan got into his cab  
and drove away.

Meanwhile President Tallman and  
Director S. F. Meyer, who had arrived at  
the scene about the same time with Mr.  
Jordan, having probably received the tip-  
off that he was going to make matters  
straight, became very impatient when they  
learned the result of the interview  
with Mr. Trevelyan.

While the crowd on the sidewalk was  
growing larger and larger all the time  
President Jordan made his second ap-  
pearance.

The crowd was shoved back by the po-  
licemen on duty while the bank President  
and the Examiner held another consulta-  
tion. Mr. Jordan was evidently very  
much put out by what had occurred and  
showed it in his manner.

As he stood in front of the wire door  
of the bank's entrance, which was investi-  
gated by the Equitable, came up and spoke  
to him.

AN OATH AND A THREAT.  
Mr. Jordan admitted and then Mr.  
Cahill got very red in the face.  
"It is," he said, "thereby shaking  
his finger in President Jordan's face."  
His hand at action against you for that."

What the remark made by Mr. Jordan  
was nobody could find out. The two  
men walked up the street a half a block  
and continued to talk and gesticulate ex-  
tensively, but finally they cooled down, and  
Mr. Jordan went away again in his cab.  
He drove directly to the store of Park

## LELAND BACK.

He Buys Back His Stock in  
the 6th National Bank.

Reorganization with Leland and  
Tappen in the Directorate.

President Tappen Planks Down  
\$280,000 for the Syndicate.

President Jordan Refused Admis-  
sion to Reopen the Equitable.

Riotous Gathering of Depositors  
Outside the Lenox Hill.

A meeting of the stockholders of the  
Sixth National Bank was held to-  
day afternoon, at which the direc-  
tory of that institution was completely  
reorganized.

It was announced that ex-President  
Leland had bought back all his 1,005  
shares of stock which he had sold to  
Chasman and his associates and was ready  
to resume the control of the bank.

In making this announcement U. S.  
Bank Examiner Hepburn said he had just  
received from President Frederick D.  
Tappen, of the Gallatin Bank, on behalf  
of the syndicate, Mr. Tappen's check for  
\$280,000.

In addition to Mr. Leland's  
\$500,000, Mr. Hepburn said, made the  
Sixth National Bank solvent.

The new Board of Directors chosen  
consists of Frederick D. Tappen, Charles  
H. Leland, Joseph Park, of Park & Til-  
ford; John D. Quinlan and Mr. Landon.  
Mr. Leland was elected President, and  
it was announced that permission had  
been obtained from the U. S. Comptroller  
authorizing the bank to resume its busi-  
ness to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

There are, it is said, funds at the com-  
mand of the bank at the present time  
sufficient to pay every obligation to de-  
positors in full.

The Equitable Bank did not resume  
payments at the opening of banking  
hours this morning.

All the clerks were on hand before 10  
o'clock. The cashier was with them,  
ready to go on and open the bank if  
Superintendent Preston should give the  
order.

They could not get into the bank,  
which was in charge of ex-United States  
Bank Examiner, William Trevelyan, who  
is now in charge of the concern under  
the direction of the Attorney General,  
and so they had to wait outside in the  
street.

Just before 10 o'clock Mr. Smith, of the  
Western National Bank, drove up in a  
cab and held a brief whispered consulta-  
tion with Examiner Trevelyan through  
the wire grating at the front entrance.

When he was asked if the bank would  
be opened to-day, he replied:  
"That is a question of law which must  
first be decided. There is no question  
whatever about there being funds  
enough."

He then drove off in his cab and deeper  
gloom settled upon the little anxious  
group on the sidewalk.

At that Mr. Trevelyan made way was:  
"If the money comes here to-day and  
State Superintendent of Banks Preston  
says the bank can open, I will unlock the  
door."

JORDAN REFUSED ADMISION.  
Just before 11 o'clock President Jordan  
drove up to the Equitable Bank, in West  
Twenty-eighth street. He had just come  
from the Sixth National Bank, and he  
brought with him a big yellow leather  
grip, which contained funds to meet  
the demands of the depositors at the  
Equitable.

In fact, he was prepared to open the  
bank then and there. When he asked  
Examiner Trevelyan to open the doors of  
the bank and let him in, the latter in-  
quired for his authority from the At-  
torney General, stating that he was now only  
acting as an officer of the Court and could  
admit to no one except on the order of the  
proper official.

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## GOOD-BYE, LEAGUE GROUNDS.

Mr. Coogan to Lease Them Away  
from the New Yorks.

The New York and New England  
Railway Company the Lessees.

The New York League Baseball grounds  
must go.

Mr. James J. Coogan, the owner  
of the grounds and of the territory  
adjacent to them, will lease that  
part of the grounds lying